

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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P R 291450Z JUL 76 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1420

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7972

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UG, KE, OAU

SUBJECT: KENYA-UGANDA MEDIATORS BLOSSOM FORTH

REF: PORT LOUIS 689, USUN 3044, ADDIS ABABA 8926

1. CONTINUED TENSIONS BETWEEN KENYA AND UGANDA AND AMIN'S

APPEAL TO UNSYG AND OAU SECRETARY GENERAL FOR HELP IN

BREAKING WHAT HE CALLS KENYAN "BLOCKADE" OF FUEL SUPPLIES

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HAVE PROMPTED A HOST OF WOULD-BE MEDIATORS TO STEP FORWARD.

OAU SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA ARRIVED NAIROBI JULY 28, WAS MET BY FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI. HE SAID HE HAD COME TO ORGANIZE MEDIATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND WOULD GO ON TO KAMPALA AFTER TALKS IN NAIROBI.

2. ANOTHER ARRIVAL IN NAIROBI JULY 28 WAS LITHO MOBOTI, SPECIAL ENVOY FROM ZAIRE PRESIDENT MOBUTU. MOBOTI IS REPORTEDLY CARRYING SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT KENYATTA, PRESUMABLY URGING PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF KENYA-UGANDA DIFFERENCES SO THAT TRANSIT SHIPMENTS THROUGH UGANDA TO EASTERN ZAIRE MAY RESUME. SIMILAR MESSAGES HAVE BEEN PRESENTED BY SUDAN AND RWANDA.

3. AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS AS CHAIRMAN OF OAU IS ALSO ENDEAVORING TO LAUNCH MEDIATION EFFORT, CONVENING A CONCILIATION COMMISSION IN THE FIRST INSTANCE IN DAR ES SALAAM.

4. FORERUNNER OF CURRENT MEDIATORS WAS NIGERIAN EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA, WHO CAME AND WENT WITHOUT MUCH APPRECIABLE IMPACT ON SITUATION TWO WEEKS AGO.

5. IN WAKE OF BRITAIN'S BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UGANDA, ADDRESSEES MAY WONDER WHETHER KENYA WILL FOLLOW SUIT. IN FACT, KENYA AND UGANDA AS MEMBERS OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HAVE NEVER MAINTAINED DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN EACH OTHER'S CAPITALS, SUBSCRIBING INSTEAD TO THE FICTION THAT PROBLEMS AMONG EAC MEMBER STATES WILL BE IRONED OUT THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE COMMUNITY. THIS HAS RESULTED IN SITUATION WHERE DIPLOMACY IS CONDUCTED OVER TELEPHONE BETWEEN RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTRIES OR OFFICES OF THREE EAC PRESIDENTS.

6. COMMENT: KENYA-UGANDA DISPUTE IS CLEARLY ONE WHICH AFRICANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE RESOLVED BY AFRICAN MEANS. PROPOSAL OF MAURITIUS EXTAFF MINISTER WALTER TO INDUCE FACE-TO-FACE MEETING BETWEEN KENYAN AND UGANDA FOREIGN MINISTERS MAY HAVE MERIT IN GETTING TWO
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COUNTRIES TO ADDRESS REAL ISSUES RATHER THAN PLAYING TO DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION. HOWEVER, THE TEMPTATION WILL BE GREAT FOR KENYA TO KEEP UGANDA ON SHORT FUEL SUPPLIES SO LONG AS THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF UGANDAN AIR ATTACK. KENYANS ARE CONVINCED THAT AMIN HAS LIBYAN MIRAGES, AND THIS IS SEEN AS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS SINCE KENYA POSES NO AIR THREAT TO UGANDA. MOREOVER, SOME IN KENYA

MAY FEEL THAT THIS IS PROPITIOUS MOMENT TO APPLY ECONOMIC SQUEEZE IN HOPES OF BRINGING DOWN AMIN. THUS OUTLOOK FOR MEDIATION EFFORTS IS UNCERTAIN AT BEST.

7. ADDITIONAL COMMENT: REMARKS OF DEFENSE MINISTRY PERMSEC KIEREINI JUST MADE TO DCM ALSO SUGGEST THAT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF MEDIATION EFFORTS BY ETEKI OR OTHERS ARE POOR. ACCORDING TO KIEREINI, FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI GREATLY EXCEEDED HIS INSTRUCTIONS IN HIS JULY 27 PRESS CONFERENCE WHEN, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM PRESS, HE ACKNOWLEDGED GOK WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT "MEDIATION" BY OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI. KIEREINI EMPHASIZED THAT PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S POSITION HAS BEEN AND REMAINS THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO BE MEDIATED AND THAT SEVEN POINTS IN JULY 27 GOK STATEMENT READY BY FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI (REPORTED NAIROBI 7844) ARE NOT RPT NOT NEGOTIABLE. KIEREINI COMPLAINED THAT WAIYAKI HAD NOT EVEN BOTHERED TO READ CAREFULLY PREPARED GOK STATEMENT BEFORE JULY 27 BRIEFING SESSION WITH AMBASSADORS AND PRESS. AS A RESULT OF WAIYAKI'S MISHANDLING OF THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE, KIEREINI SAID "THIS ETEKI FELLOW" IS NOW IN KENYA CALLING US "UN-AFRICAN" BECAUSE WE REFUSE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO AMIN.
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